

Bureau of Oral Health

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Newsletter | Issue 16 | Fall 2021

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Dear Colleagues,

The Bureau of Oral Health within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment currently participates in three major oral health programs. These programs are designed to reduce barriers to care and address oral health inequities across our state. The oral health programs the Bureau of Oral Health has partnerships with are Dental Lifeline, a school-based dental sealant program with the CDC known as SEALS, and the Kansas school screening program.

Kansas partners with Dental Lifeline for the “Donated Dental Services (DDS)” program. This service provides free, comprehensive dental treatment to our country’s most vulnerable people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile. These are people who cannot afford necessary treatment and cannot get public aid. The program operates through a volunteer network of 15,000 dentists and 3,400 dental labs across the United States. Since its inception in 1985, our DDS program has surpassed \$493 million in donated dental therapies, transforming the lives of 165,600 people.” (<https://dentallifeline.org/>)

The CDC SEALS (Sealant Efficiency Assessment for Locals and States) program is designed to capture, store, and analyze school sealant program data. School-based dental sealant programs “are an effective way to reach millions of children with dental sealants to prevent cavities. The Community Preventive Services Task Force strongly recommends using school-based sealant delivery programs to prevent cavities among children. In addition, school sealant programs can be cost-saving within 2 years of placing sealants; and delivering sealants to children at high risk for cavities can be cost-saving to Medicaid. The CDC supports states to put into action school sealant programs that reduce oral disease and improve oral health. (https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/dental_sealant_program/school-sealant-programs.htm)

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Dr. Dayna Brinckman

ADA ‘strongly’ encouraging dental professionals to be vaccinated for COVID-19

The ADA is “strongly” encouraging dental professionals to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. The ADA is not calling for mandated vaccination.

In a July 28 (2021) email to member dentists, ADA President Daniel J. Klemmedson, D.D.S., M.D., said that ADA policy recommends vaccination in accord with what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends, and the CDC doesn’t recommend mandated COVID-19 vaccination for health care professionals at this point in time.

Because dentistry is a science and evidence-based profession, Dr. Klemmedson also shared ADA Health Policy Institute data that found nearly 90% of dentists reported being fully vaccinated for COVID-19, while 93.4% of dentists reported receiving at least one dose.

For more information on current CDC guidelines specifying which immunizations are recommended for health care workers, including those in dental practices, visit [ADA.org](https://www.ada.org) and be sure to follow rules and regulations applicable to their location or employment situation. The ADA continues to create COVID-19 resources that address members’ concerns. For the latest information, visit [ADA.org/virus](https://www.ada.org/virus).

Full article can be found: <https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2021-archive/july/ada-strongly-encouraging-dental-professionals-to-be-vaccinated>

ADA New Dentist News: Giving back: Choosing the dental public health route

In July 2021, the ADA published an article outlining two new dentists’ choice to work in public health.

Lisa Begay, D.M.D. grew up at least 30 miles away from a healthcare facility and understood the barriers her family and community faced, especially when it came to their oral health. She became a dental hygienist and then a dentist and now is the chief dental office for Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Center in To’hajiilee, New Mexico.



Ashley McQueen, D.D.S. wanted to be a dentist since she was 10 years old. During her residency she became interested in public health. She returned to her hometown of Houston, Texas and began working at her local Federally Qualified Health Center.

Both dentists are passionate about their jobs and have a feeling of fulfillment and purpose.

You can read the full article on the ADA’s website under publications:

<https://www.ada.org/en/publications/new-dentist-news/2021-archive/july/giving-back-choosing-the-dental-public-health-route>

For more information on working in public health settings, visit the Health Resources and Services Administration Health Workforce Connector. For information about working within the Indian Health Service, visit the IHS website.

New Study Shows Cavity Rates Continue to Rise After Calgary Ended Water Fluoridation

A new study on the cessation of water fluoridation in Calgary, Alberta showed continued increases in cavities of the city's children seven years after the cessation occurred. The study finds that nearly two-thirds of Calgary's Grade 2 students have suffered a cavity — a considerably higher rate than in Edmonton, where children still have access to fluoridated water.

Fluoridation is recommended by the Public Health Agency of Canada, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, Canadian Paediatric Society, World Health Organization, and leading health and scientific organizations around the world. No credibly recognized scientific or health organization in the world opposes fluoridation.

Access the full article here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/cdoe.12685>



Image from: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/basics/anniversary.htm>

Bureau of Oral Health attends Kansas Dental Hygiene Association's Annual Meeting



Debra Trybom, RDH, ECP III our outreach dental hygienist attended the Kansas Dental Hygiene Association's annual meeting on September 11, 2021 in Wichita, KS. Debra was there to promote school-based sealant

programs, Dental Lifeline, and to recruit volunteers for the Kansas School Screening Program. Debra was able to sign up several new volunteers!

Oral Health Education Program

Over the summer, the Bureau of Oral Health partnered with Delta Dental, local health departments and Head Start programs to distribute toothbrush kits and parent education materials across Kansas. The Bureau sent out approximately 6000 kits to 116 health departments in Kansas and 1500 kits to Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Here is what one program had to say, "We are so grateful for your generosity! Thanks to YOU and KDHE, we will be able to better serve vulnerable children and families in our community. You really do make a difference!"

-Growing Futures, Overland Park, KS





The Kansas School Oral Health Screening Report

A big thank you to all dental outreach programs that continue to provide oral health screenings throughout schools in Kansas. As we continue to maneuver the challenge of serving our communities during this pandemic, it is imperative to remember the importance of school screenings (dental, vision & hearing) for school-age children. It is often during screenings, that significant findings are identified that are impacting a child's ability to focus and learn in school. If your program or school is in need of assistance in organizing an oral health screening in your community, please contact the Bureau of Oral Health at kboh@ks.gov for resources.



Volunteer, Dr. Jennifer Rose, screening in Overland Park.

2020-2021 Kansas School Sealant Program

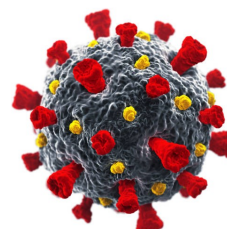


Many dental outreach programs continue to provide direct services in schools throughout the state and their efforts and collaborations within their communities is acknowledged and applauded. For any dental program that is looking to start, expand or enhance their in-school dental sealant outreach program, please contact the Bureau of Oral Health at kboh@ks.gov for information and resources. The CDC SEALS program is currently updating their training modules on the CDC website.

Covid-19 Dental Practices toolkit

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has a website dedicated to updating the public with the most current Covid-19 guidance. The Dental Practices toolkit can be found here:

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/258/Dental-Practices>



Kansas Medical Assistance Program (KMAP) bulletin

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Name Change to Comirnaty

Effective August 23, 2021, the COVID-19 vaccine known as Pfizer was changed to Comirnaty to reflect the full Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for ages 16 and older. Note: The effective date of the policy is August 23, 2021. The implementation of State policy by the KanCare Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) may vary from the date noted in the Kansas Medical Assistance Program (KMAP) bulletins.

News From Our Partners



New Kansas E-Prescribing Law Will Take Effect July 1, 2021

Many Dentists Will Not Be Affected

As the KDA has reported for some time, beginning July 1, 2021 Kansas law will require electronic prescribing for every prescription order issued for a controlled substance in schedules II-V that contains an opiate.

The new law **only affects prescribers who issue over 50 prescription orders per year of “controlled substances that contain opiates.”**

Specifically, the new Kansas law states *“Every prescription order issued for a controlled substance in schedules II-V that contains an opiate....shall be transmitted electronically.”*

Prescribers can apply for a 6-month waiver and more information can be found on the Kansas Board of Pharmacy website: <https://pharmacy.ks.gov/resources-consumer-info-2/electronic-prescribing-waiver>.

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The Kansas School Screening program was implemented in 2008 as a statewide oral health screening program to satisfy [The Kansas State Statute for Annual Dental Inspection \(K.S.A.72-6251\)](#). Dentists and dental hygienists in Kansas are providing dental screenings in their own local communities with school nurses sending the results home to parents and guardians. Over a hundred thousand children from pre-K to Grade 12, are being screened annually across Kansas. School nurses express much appreciation and are thrilled the children are being screened; parents informed of obvious dental concerns; and children referred to dental professionals for obvious care needed. (https://www.kdheks.gov/ohi/screening_program.htm).

Dental practices have been surviving through economic strife the past several years; through a recession and now through a global pandemic. You know how difficult it has been to keep your clinic doors open and how even more difficult it is for vulnerable populations to receive the care they need. They deserve quality oral health care. If you would consider adding just one patient, or screening one school; you can greatly impact your community and the oral health of Kansas.

You can make a difference,
Dayna Brinckman, DDS, CHCEF

Save the Date

November 4-5:

Oral Health Kansas Virtual Conference on Oral Health

More information and registration can be found here:

<http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/Conference.html>

February 18-19:

KMOM- The Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation (KDCF) is please to announce that the 2022 Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) free dental clinic will be held on February 18-19 in Hays, KS at the Ellis County Fairgrounds.

April 11-13 2022:

National Oral Health Conference, Fort Worth, TX

Registration will open January 2022. For more information or to submit an abstract please go to the NOHC website here: <https://www.nationaloralhealthconference.com/>

Helpful links:

Kansas Department of Health and Environment:

www.kdheks.gov

KS Dental Association: www.ksdental.org

Events & community outreach programs:

www.ksdentalfoundation.org

The Kansas Dental Board: www.dental.ks.gov

Kansas Dental Hygienists' Association: www.kdha.org

Our State Oral Health Coalition: www.oralhealthkansas.org

For Community Care Clinics: www.communitycareks.org

Thank
You

The Bureau of Oral Health wishes to thank all the Dentists and Dental Hygienists, Parent Volunteers, School Nurses, Screeners and others that have contributed their valuable time and efforts towards providing better oral health among children in Kansas.

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